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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4809
INFO RUEHXP/ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY 0663
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 0487
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0165

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SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/RPM AARON COPE, S/SRAP DERECK HOGAN,
SCA/A, EUR/CE JAMIE MOORE, AND EMBASSY PRAGUE ACTING DCM
JOHN LAW

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [NATO](#) [AF](#) [HU](#)

SUBJECT: HUNGARY'S COMMENTS ON AFGHAN TRANSITION PLANNING
AND PRAGUE PRT CONFERENCE

REF: A. SECSTATE 4108

[B](#). SECSTATE 3595

[C](#). 2009 BUDAPEST 876

[1](#). (SBU) PolOff delivered ref A and B points to the MOD Policy State Secretary Jozsef Bali and MFA's Security Policy and Non-proliferation Deputy Department Head, Gabor Horvath, January 15. Both expressed appreciation for the ref A's clarifying points and acknowledged the importance of continued, unwavering support for ISAF efforts in Afghanistan. Horvath expressed interest in further information as to what impact the proposed ISAF transition plan would have on the Hungarian PRT in Baghlan province, stating that he would follow up with the Hungarian Permanent Representative at NATO.

[2](#). (SBU) In response to ref A point on the upcoming Defense Ministerial in Istanbul February 4, Bali reiterated Hungary's offer to add 200 troops in 2010 outlined in ref C. Bali was unaware that the Prime Minister told the Ambassador January 14 that the number will increase to 235 (septel), but confirmed that the Prime Minister and Finance Minister had recently met to source funding for the additional troops from 2010 budget reserves.

[3](#). (SBU) Turning to the ref B proposed meeting with D/SRAP Paul Jones at the January 25-27 PRT conference in Prague, Horvath said that Eszter Sandorfi, MFA's NATO Section Head and Deputy Secretary of the GOH Cabinet's PRT Committee, will lead Hungary's delegation and would gladly participate in the closed, pre-conference session.
KOUNALAKIS